



WAITANGI TREATY GROUNDS/TE PITOWHENUA

BIRTHPLACE OF A NATION

Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua is one of New Zealand's greatest national symbols. The site where New Zealand's founding document, Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi, was first signed in 1840 is fundamental to our cultural identity and New Zealand's origin as a modern bicultural nation.

Known to Ngāpuhi as a place of ancestral importance, where rangatira (chiefs) gathered to discuss matters of common interest, and where He Wakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirene/The Declaration of Independence of New Zealand was signed, Waitangi remains a pivotal place for engaging with ideas of nationhood and national identity. For Māori and Pākehā, Waitangi is a living, breathing entity; a direct link with the aims and aspirations of Te Tiriti/The Treaty, and the birthplace of a nation.



Credit: Kevin L. Jones, Department of Conservation/Te Papa Atawhai

Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua is central to New Zealand's past, present, and future. It played a crucial role in our social, constitutional, and cultural history, and incorporates valuable physical elements. It has strong spiritual importance and ancestral associations, a place with many significant tūpuna to Māori, and remains a fundamental place for engagement with ideas about national identity.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua merits recognition and long-term protection as a National Historic Landmark/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa Me Ōna Kōrero Tūturu for its outstanding historical, physical, and cultural significance.



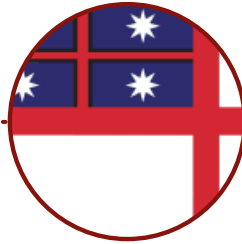
WHAT MAKES THE PLACE



Waitangi is a sacred and ancestral landscape, with particular meaning for Ngāpuhi, New Zealand's largest iwi. It is where Maikuku, granddaughter of Ngāpuhi's founding father Rāhiri, met her husband Hua, and gave birth to their eldest son Te Rā - founder of Ngāti Rāhiri hapū. Important places within this landscape include Te Ana o Maikuku/Maikuku's Cave, He Tūru o Maikuku/ Maikuku's Seat (above), and Ruarangi - where Te Rā was born. Waitangi remains an important centre for Ngāti Rāhiri and other hapū.



Illustrating the arrival of European peoples and ideas, the **British Residency** is one of the country's earliest remaining buildings. It reflects Waitangi's role as the main place of contact between Māori and the British Crown leading up to 1840. In 1815, Ngāti Rāhiri rangatira Waraki helped missionary William Hall create one of the country's first European-style farms. Following a letter from Ngāpuhi chiefs to King William IV, a British Resident's position was created, and a largely prefabricated house (above) was erected for the first Resident, James Busby and family - a government outpost in an almost exclusively Māori world.



Momentous events fundamental to New Zealand's emergence as a nation occurred within the Residency grounds. In the 1830s, land next to the Residency was used like a marae or paepae - a **meeting place** for discussions among Māori, and between Māori and Pākehā. In a tent on the Residency lawn in 1834, northern rangatira chose New Zealand's first national flag, Te Kara (above). The following year, another gathering of rangatira signed He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o NuTirene/ The Declaration of the Independence of New Zealand.



The first signing of **Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi** took place in front of the Residency on 6th February 1840. Signed by a number of Māori rangatira and the British Crown, Te Tiriti/The Treaty is a founding document for New Zealand as a modern nation state. The Waitangi signing site is symbolically marked by a flagstaff, initially erected in 1933. It lies at the heart of a network of other signing places linked with Te Tiriti/The Treaty, extending across the length and breadth of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Te Tiriti/The Treaty heralded New Zealand's formal incorporation into the British Empire, the first island-group in the Pacific to do so. The grounds reflect shifting perspectives about national identity since that event. In 1932-33, a hundred years after the Residency was created, the house and grounds became New Zealand's first major 'monument of state', donated to the nation by the Governor-General and his wife - **Lord and Lady Bledisloe's gift**. Contemporary restoration of the Residence, renamed the Treaty House, was a major milestone in heritage conservation.



WHAT MAKES THE PLACE



Te Whare Rūnanga was instigated and created by Māori in 1934-40 as a memorial to the unique relationship established by Te Tiriti/The Treaty. The building is a well preserved expression of the revival of Māori arts and crafts in the early twentieth century, incorporating carvings linked with a number of iwi and hapū. It was opened as part of the centenary celebrations of Te Tiriti/The Treaty held on the site in 1940. Its associated marae continues the tradition of meeting and discussing important matters at Waitangi.



Also unveiled as part of the centenary celebrations, the **Hobson Memorial** commemorates Governor William Hobson, who signed Te Tiriti/The Treaty on behalf of the British Crown. The monument was designed by William Page who, along with W.H. Gummer, had earlier undertaken conservation work on the British Residency. Widely attended, the 1940 commemorations were a conscious celebration of New Zealand pride, and cemented Waitangi's role as a national symbol.



Waitangi is a nationally significant **horticultural landscape**. Surviving early colonial plantings include rare camellias and an avenue of cabbage trees - the latter probably linked with the Residency garden and one of the country's earliest vineyards. Remnants of early European agriculture survive in the form of 'ridge-and-furrow' archaeological features. More recent commemorative planting included extensive native bush, and trees marking the visits of dignitaries, including the first by a ruling British monarch Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.



The whare waka, **Te Korowai o Maikuku**/The cloak of Maikuku, is an important symbol of the ongoing presence and involvement of Māori at Waitangi. The ornate structure was built on the beach at Te Ana o Maikuku in 1976 to house the 35-metre waka Ngātokimatawhaorua - itself created as part of Ngāpuhi's contribution to the 1940 centenary. Like Te Whare Rūnanga, the structure incorporates carvings of ancestors of different iwi and hapū.

(Image credit: Waitangi National Trust)



Every year on 6 February, Waitangi is centre stage to a uniquely New Zealand day of commemoration. Often synonymous with debate and difficult conversations, New Zealanders engage with one another to discuss issues of injustice, identity, sovereignty, and mana. This festival of nationhood - blending such diverse elements as pageantry, protest, and picnics - highlights Waitangi as a living, breathing entity. It is a place where history is remembered. **Waitangi Day** is a living link to the aims and aspirations of Te Tiriti/The Treaty.



WHY IT MATTERS TO US



Since 1934, New Zealanders have gathered on the 6 February at Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua to engage with each other. Here we share, discuss, and explore what matters to us as a nation, from issues of injustice to sovereignty and mana. It is a place for open debate and difficult conversations.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua is simultaneously stage and actor in a uniquely New Zealand day of commemoration, and each year New Zealanders demonstrate through their actions how important a part Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua is to their lives. Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua is the nation's living link to the aims and aspirations of Te Tiriti/The Treaty.

It is at Waitangi Treaty Grounds/Te Pitowhenua that as a country we continue to ask questions about our past, explore aspects of our present, and seek ways to find answers and improve our future.



SITE DEFINITION



Credit: Google Earth

Extent map: General boundary indicated in red

ADDRESS	26 Tau Henare Drive, WAITANGI
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Lot 1 DP 326610 (CT 108096), North Auckland Land District.
EXTENT	Extent includes part of the land described as Lot 1 DP 326610 (CT 108096), North Auckland Land District, and the buildings and structures associated with Waitangi Treaty Grounds / Te Pitowhenua thereon, including the Treaty House, Flagstaff, Te Whare Rūnanga, Hobson Memorial and Whare Waka - Te Korowai o Maikuku. Extent also includes He Tūru o Maikuku / Maikuku's seat and significant plantings, including two rows of cabbage trees, associated totara trees, fig trees, a Norfolk Island pine, a pohutukawa tree, a plane, an elm, an oak, a walnut, a camphor laurel, two camellia trees, a bamboo plant, and commemorative trees planted from 1932 onwards. Extent excludes the buildings known as the Caretaker's Cottage and Staff Accommodation.
NEW ZEALAND HERITAGE LIST NO.	Waitangi Treaty Grounds (List No. 6) http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/6 Ruarangi (List No. 7692) http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7692 Waitangi (List No. 9777) http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/9777
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero – Review Report for a Historic Place, Waitangi Treaty Grounds, WAITANGI (List No. 6, Category 1) http://heritage.org.nz/the-list/landmarks